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1. Centrist Democrat International
(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Nature and objectives

Centrist Democrat International (CDI) (formerly Christian Democratic International) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences

CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the twenty-first century"

(Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

2. Transnational Radical Party
(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is a non-violent international political organization founded in 1955.

Since its affiliation with the Council, TRP has followed issues related to human rights, international drug trafficking, international criminal law and linguistic rights at sessions of several United Nations Commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

Since **1998**, TRP has been a member of the Conference on Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), and recently was among the founders of the New York Non-governmental Organization Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. TRP is also a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.

During the past four years TRP has collaborated with several other non-governmental organizations promoting the establishment of informal networks and coalitions to better educate the public on the work of the United Nations and to optimize joint activities regarding specific issues. In **1995**, TRP was among the founders of the NGO Coalition for an international Criminal Court, and in **1997**, it promoted the creation of the Coalition for an International Language. Both coalitions produce newsletters and participate in United Nations activities related to their mandates.

Participation in United Nations Commissions

Commission on Human Rights

At the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions TRP delivered written and oral statements on an variety of items, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms; violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief; the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the rights of the child; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; indigenous issues; and conscientious objection to military service.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

At the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, TRP delivered written or oral statements on the following items: the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; freedom of movement: population displacements; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the realization of the right to development; the human rights of women; the human rights of indigenous peoples; protection of minorities; administration of justice and the human rights of detainees; and elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief.

Commission on the Status of Women

At the forty-second session TRP delivered statements on the Beijing Platform for Action and women in armed conflict.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

TRP presented written and oral statements on the following: measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs; promotion of judicial

cooperation; the fight against money-laundering; and the eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes.

Committee on Non-governmental Organizations

TRP submitted a proposal for an agenda item on eventual experimentation of an international auxiliary language at the June 1996 session.

Participation in other United Nations conferences and forums

TRP sent accredited representatives to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) (3-14 June 1996).

TRP circulated literature on its United Nations-related activities to the fiftieth and fifty-first annual DPIMGO Conferences.

At the special session of the General Assembly on Drugs, TRP delivered a statement. It also took active part in all non-governmental activities such as panel discussions and round tables on drug related issues and distributed a 20-page briefing paper.

TRP attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Other relevant activities

To better achieve its objectives **TRP** has launched several ad hoc campaigns aimed at targeting civil society, the media, and decision makers all over the world.

Its major United Nations-related campaigns were "No Peace without Justice", for issues concerning the establishment of an effective system of international criminal justice, and "Hands off Cain", for the adoption by the General Assemb ly of a resolution on an international moratorium of capital executions. The final stages of the "No Peace without Justice" campaign were a series of international conferences held in various capitals of the world to urge international support for the proposed court.

In order to facilitate the widest possible participation in the work of the Conference on an International Criminal Court, inexpensive fares and special accommodation rates were found for delegates from the least developed countries and some 30 young experts in international law and international humanitarian law were enabled to participate in the various working groups. During the Conference, TRP organized a series of public events.

TRP operates a web site (www.radicalparty.org) containing the latest action alerts, TRP's position papers and news on the different issues set by its congressional motions.

3. International Press Institute (IPI)
(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introductory statement

The International Press Institute (IPI) is a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists dedicated to protecting and furthering freedom of the press and improving the standards and practices of journalism. Founded in October 1950 by 34 editors from 15 countries, today IPI has grown into a truly global organization with over 2,000 members in 110 countries. Even though the size of the organization has changed, its philosophy remains the same: that freedom of expression is the right that protects all other rights and that this freedom needs to be promoted and defended.

The Institute's membership is made up of editors and media executives working for some of the world's most respected media outlets. IPI has also established a new membership category, "IPI leading journalists", which is open to heads of media departments, bureau chiefs, correspondents and others. Moreover, in several countries, IPI members have established national committees that support the Institute in its work to improve the situation for the media. IPI is a member of the World Press Freedom Committee.

International Press Institute consultative activities with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies:

January 1997: Paris. An IPI representative attended the third consultative committee meeting in Paris to prepare the United Nations UNESCO European Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media, which was held in September 1997 in Sofia. IPI also provided UNESCO with background information on the situation of the European media.

18-20 May 1997: New York. The IPI Director attended the meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations, of which IPI is a member. The meeting was organized to coincide with the May session of the Committee on Information, during which influential non-aligned countries were once again expected to promote the new world information and communication order (NWICO). The ministers of information of nearly 30 non-aligned countries, at a conference held in Abuja, Nigeria from 3 to 6 September 1996, had called for the revival of the concept of this new world order. In their declaration, the ministers claimed that developed nations were employing their media to disseminate false and distorted information on events taking place in developing countries — the same argument used in the original drive for NWICO in the 1970s.

At a meeting with Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, the Coordinating Committee was assured that the issue of NWICO would not come up at their 1997 meetings. However, another plan, a United Nations world media conference, is still a possibility and could become more concrete at any given time. The Committee promised to watch closely any developments.

27 May 1998: Moscow. IPI members meeting in Moscow for the IPI annual World Congress and forty-seventh General Assembly issued a resolution urging authorities around the world to reaffirm article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration. At the same event, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, spoke about fifty years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 1998: Vienna. The Institute, in cooperation with Pressclub Concordia and the Austrian newspaper publishers association, marked the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by inviting Henrikas Yushkiavitshus, Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics of UNESCO to present a lecture on new threats to freedom of opinion and expression. The lecture was attended by Austrian editors, foreign correspondents, diplomats and parliamentarians from the various political parties of Austria. The event was presided over by Heinz Fischer, President of the Austrian Parliament, who spoke about Austria's commitment to human rights.

21 February 1999: Washington, D.C. The Institute's Director attended a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations in Washington, D.C. The meeting adopted the following resolution on the successor to Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO:

We, the undersigned representatives of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organizations, urge that the member States of UNESCO, in their search for a successor to Director-General Federico Mayor, when his term ends in fall 1999, require of any candidate for selection as Director-General that he or she makes a positive, unambiguous and public commitment to reaffirm and emphasise freedom of expression, including freedom of the press. Such a commitment to press freedom is founded in the UNESCO Constitution, and in the five regional declarations (Windhoek, Almaty, Santiago de Chile, Sana'a and Sofia) on promoting independent and pluralistic media that were endorsed by UNESCO's General Conferences.

1 March 1999: Paris. The IPI Director attended an NGO consultation meeting on the societal impact of the new information and communication technologies at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. UNESCO convened the informal meeting to gather the views and expectations of some of its main partners, especially those working in close cooperation with the communication, information and informatics sector.

3 May 2000: Boston, Massachusetts. Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed over 400 participants in the IPI annual World Congress at the closing ceremony on World Press Freedom Day (3 May).

4-5 May 2000: Geneva, Switzerland. An IPI representative attended a round table on media in conflict and post-conflict areas organized in Geneva by the UNESCO Programme for Freedom of Expression. Democracy and Peace. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations met to discuss how to combat war propaganda and hate speech without detriment to freedom of the press and the editorial independence of local media. A charter of recommendations for future action was drafted by the participants at the end of the two-day meeting.

13-15 November: Paris. The IPI Director took part in INFOethics 2000 on the Right to Universal Access to Information in the Twenty-first Century at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The main themes of the conference were the role of public authorities in access to information; the fair use concept in the information society; and the protection of human dignity in the digital age. The declared aim of the meeting was to examine the possibility of building up an international consensus on ethical and legal principles applicable in cyberspace and to further consolidate the new information society programme of UNESCO.

4. Islamic Relief
(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The present report outlines the activities of Islamic Relief in particular its contribution to thework of the United Nations.

Islamic Relief is an international relief and development charity aimed at alleviating the suffering of the world's poorest nations. It is an independent, non-political organization established in 1984. Since then Islamic Relief has grown rapidly and currently spans four continents, initiating emergency and long-term development projects in some of the poorest communities around the world. With its headquarters in Birmingham, United Kingdom, Islamic Relief has nine fund-raising offices registered in Belgium, France, Germany, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States and eleven field offices in Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Egypt, Kosova, Mali, Pakistan, Palestine, the Russian Federation, Kabardin-Balkar Republic) and the Sudan. Islamic Relief specializes in the following sectors: education and vocational training; health and nutrition; water and sanitation; income generation; orphans' support; disaster preparedness; and emergency relief.

The organization has no relationship with any Government bearing on its management or the orientation of its activities. However, Islamic Relief may accept donations or services from governmental agencies wishing to support certain projects. For example, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom has financially supported Islamic Relief development and emergency relief projects in Bangladesh, Mali and Pakistan.

Participation in United Nations conferences and meetings

Since 1997 Islamic Relief has participated in numerous conferences and meetings. From May to July 1999 the Islamic Relief field office in Albania participated in various coordination meetings held by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Shkodra, northern Albania to discuss the conditions in the refugee camps and the security of refugees and expatriate staff. In February 2000 Islamic Relief's Emergency Relief Coordinator was present in various meetings in Moscow with UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Those meetings concerned the Chechen crisis that had erupted four months before. The same representative participated in meetings during May 2000 in Nazran with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to explore the humanitarian situation for displaced Chechens in the Republic of Ingushetia. In 2000, Islamic Relief participated in other conferences, meetings and workshops in Timbuktu and Bamako, Mali, and in Senegal organized by UNHCR, WFP and UNESCO, including the education for all conference. During the period 1998 to 2000, numerous meetings were held with UNHCR in Bosnia concerning the support for their return programme. On 8 November 2000 Islamic Relief met with WFP in Quetta, Pakistan, for the allocation of wheat for the provinces of Kandahar and Helmand. The following month, on 1 December 2000, WFP formally requested participation in a city-wide food distribution after Islamic Relief submitted a survey/assessment report.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

Kosova

- Mine awareness contract with UNICEF: child to child training, 1999 to 2000
- Mine awareness training contract United Nations Mine-Action Centre: imam and imam wives' training, 1999 to 2000
- Shelter programme contract for returnees UNHCR: 1999 to 2000

Bosnia

- Management Support Services training programme for Bosnian non-governmental organizations, funded by UNHCR in 1999
- Cooperation with UNHCR coordinated return programme to Eastern Bosnia. Islamic Relief built over 200 homes and three schools

Chechnya

- From November 2000 to date, Islamic Relief has been working as an implementing partner for WFP in the Republic of Ingushetia.

Pakistan

- Islamic Relief has been working as a leading implementing partner of UNHCR in refugee camps since 2000. The organization has also been managing two refugee camps on behalf of UNHCR and is also acting in charge of the Chaman staging camp.

Mali

In 1997 Islamic Relief officers agreed on a plan with UNHCR officers to assist in the reintegration of repatriates and displaced people in Gourma-Rharous. UNHCR agreed to contribute 193,763 United States dollars (US$) towards the cost of the project. Islamic Relief officers also participated with WFP representatives to improve cooperation on the ground.

Since 2000 Islamic Relief has worked in collaboration with the following agencies and offices:

- UNESCO, as part of the NGO consortium for the Education for All agenda
- WFP (Mali), in the evaluation mission of the WFP female strategy programme
- WFP (Mali), in the evaluation mission for the school canteens project

Sudan

- UNICEF has supported numerous projects, such as a mother and child health-care and feeding centre in El Obeid, from 1997 to date by providing vaccines, rehydration salts and Unimix for children who suffer from malnutrition

- The vocational training programme and the adult literacy programme in El Obeid were also supported by the World Food Programme through its food-for-work scheme from 1997 onward

Other relevant activities with the United Nations

Islamic Relief worked in the following co-financed projects between 1997 and 1999:

- With UNHCR, a community reintegration project for repatriation in northern Mali
- With WFP, food-for-work activities for the repatriate and resident communities in the circle of Gourma-Rharous, in the region of Timbuktu, Mali
- With WFP, food-for-training activities for the repatriate and resident population in the circle of Gourma-Rharous, in the region of Timbuktu, Mali
- With WFP, the school canteens support project for improvement to girls education in the circle of Gourma-Rharous in the region of Timbuktu, Mali
- In 1997 Islamic Relief became a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO)
- Islamic Relief sought advice from the World Health Organization in 1997 about the tuberculosis crisis in Chechnya, in order to market a proposal for the treatment of victims in the area
- In the same year, at the request of the Geneva office of UNHCR, Islamic Relief submitted information on its operational capacity in the form of a questionnaire

Membership of Islamic Relief, by region

Africa

1. Mali 1 institution
2. Sudan 1 institution

Asia

3. Azerbaijan 1 institution
4. Bangladesh 1 institution
5. Kazakhstan 1 institution
6. Mauritius 1 institution
7. Pakistan 1 institution
8. Palestine 1 institution
9. Russian Federation (Kabardin-Balkar Republic) 1 institution

Europe

10. Albania 1 institution
11. Belgium 1 institution
12. Bosnia 1 institution

13. France 1 institution
14. Germany 1 institution
15. Kosova 1 institution
16. Netherlands 1 institution
17. Sweden 1 institution
18. Switzerland 1 institution
19. United Kingdom 1 institution

North America

20. United States of America 1 institution

5. International Association for Religious Freedom (General consultative status granted in 1995)

1. Introduction

In 2000, the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) celebrated the centenary of its founding in Boston in May 1900 as an association of individuals and groups who share a commitment to work for freedom of religion or belief through interfaith understanding and Cooperation. At the end of 2002, the IARF had 100 member groups, 11 national chapters, plus an estimated 1,500 individual members in over 30 countries. Member groups have increased by some 20% since the submission of the last report (1995-1998), but individual membership as such has declined. The programmes of the IARF have been re-organized under the new International Council (Aug. 1999-2002), and the new General Secretary, who assumed office in April 2000. After a worldwide consultation of the membership, a Strategic Plan (2001-07), including an overall statement of purpose, was adopted by the Council in March 2001. The purpose is derived from Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is, in part, as follows: "The purpose of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) is to work for freedom of religion and belief because it is a precious human right that potentially enables the best within our religious lives, or our search for truth or enlightenment, to flourish. It requires:

- *Freedom from oppressive interference or discrimination by the state, government or Society's institutions on the grounds of religion or belief*
- *Mutual understanding, respect and the promotion of harmony, or at least "tolerance", between communities or individuals of different religions or belief*
- *An essential accountability by religious communities to ensure that their own practices uphold the fundamental dignity and human rights of their members and others*

IARF's activities have been planned and supervised by regional offices, which, by 2002, were located in Bangalore (India), Budapest (Hungary), Dumaguette (Philippines), New York & Massachusetts (USA), and Tokyo (Japan). Oversight of these offices is managed by the organization's International Secretariat, which is based in Oxford, England. Financially, the IARF is principally supported by its membership, but has received one major project grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in the time period covered by this report.

2. ECOSOC Role & UN Interventions

The IARF received category II consultative status with ECOSOC in 1972 and general consultative status in 1995. It last submitted a quadrennial report (1995-98) in 1999. From 1996 until August 2002, the IARF has been represented at meetings of both the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub commission on the Promotion and the Protection of Human Rights in Geneva. IARF representatives expressed concern for situations and victims of religious persecution and intolerance at UN forums. Interventions made at the Commission on Human Rights during the years 1999-2002 were made on the following agenda items:

1999: Interventions on the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms (item 9), on the question of religious intolerance as relates to civil and political rights (item 11e), on the integration of the human rights of women (item 12), and on the question of minorities with reference to groups and particular individuals (item 14b).

2000: Interventions on all same items as above.

2001: Interventions on items 9, 11e, and 14b.

2002: Interventions on items 9, 14b and, additionally, on the rights of the child (point 13)

Interventions made at the Sub-Commission on Human Rights were on protection of minorities (item 8) in 1999 and on the violation of human rights (item 2) in 2000 and 2001.

3. Co-operation with UN Bodies: Supporting the Special Rapporteur

On 5th December 2001, the new IARF representative resident in Geneva, was instrumental in restarting the Geneva Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief and became its Secretary. One of the primary objectives of this committee is to support the work of he UN Special Rapporteur on questions of freedom of religion or belief. Meetings have been held approximately every six weeks since the end of 2001 and a Hearing with the Special Rapporteur and others was arranged at the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights in April 2002. A particular effort has been made to encourage joint statements by NGOs both at the 58th session and in preparation for the 59th session. Co-operation with the work of the Special Rapporteur has involved regular meetings with the IARF representatives in Geneva, especially in relation to the "International Consultative Conference on School Education in Relation with Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance, and Non-Discrimination," which was held in Madrid, Spain in November 2001. IARF also worked with the Special Rapporteur in December 2002 in the framework of a meeting sponsored by the *Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion or Belief.*

4. Other Activities in Support of the UN

In November 2001, IARF put considerable efforts into supporting activities to celebrate and promote the 20th Anniversary of the 1981 *UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance und Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.* IARF's South Asia Coordinating Council organized, for example, a public function with prominent speakers from different faith traditions at a Sikh venue in Delhi, and IARF has printed the 1981 *Declaration* in poster form for distribution, including as a poster centerfold in the publication *"IARF World"*. In New York, the IARF consistently supports the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief. IARF representatives attend these meetings regularly and are involved every year in planning activities to observe the anniversary of the

Declaration in November. Two members of IARF worked as conveners on the topic 'Religion' for the UN Millennium Forum in 2000.

In reference to the UN-sponsored Madrid conference noted above, IARF's International Secretariat assembled a delegation of six persons, including three members with special expertise in education. Our researcher commissioned and carefully edited a booklet of eleven essays to inform delegates on the models and practice of religious education in schools from Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. This booklet has been distributed at various UN and NGO forums. Finally, in 2002, the IARF held its triennial Congress in Budapest, Hungary. UN Special Rapporteur, Prof. Abdelfattah Amor, was the principal guest speaker and Prof. Kevin Boyle, Senior Adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, served as a panel moderator.

5. Communications: The *IARF World* is a regular newsletter distributed to membership and other interested parties. It is published twice a year with 4,000 copies produced on each occasion. Specific articles commenting on UN work in the period covered by this report (1999-2002) include:

- "IARF General Secretary Joins Special Rapporteur for UN Address," Issue #1, 1999
- "IARF at the UN in Geneva," April 2000
- "Revival of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief," and "20th Anniversary Remembered," (with poster pullout on Declaration) Oct. 2001
- "IARF Makes an Impact in Madrid," "Re-Launch of Geneva-based Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief," and "20th Anniversary Remembered in India," March 2002

IARF's web site (at www.iarf.net) has a UN page reporting on activities at the UN in both New York and Geneva. A 'Global Issues' link also summarizes situations of religious persecution around the world with information gathered from reputable news sources and cited accordingly. These reports are updated quarterly.

6. International Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University
(General Consultative Status 1999)

1. The aims and purpose of the Fund.

The main goals of the Fund concern the support and development of education, science, culture. Various Programs and Projects of the Fund constitute their main activities. During above period were established: Charitable Public Association Moscow Region Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University (February 15, 1999), Public Association Moscow Charitable Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University (June 17, 1999), German Support Foundation for the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University (November 4, 2000). These organizations together with already existed Funds in Australia, Belarus, United Kingdom, Israel, Cyprus, USA, Czech Republic, France, Siberian Region of Russia form the international system of legally independent not-for-profit organizations which are connected by common aims and programs of the International Trustee Fund.

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings.

1. President of the Fund participated in the UN World Forum "Millennium Forum" (May 22 - 26, 2000, New York, USA) by the invitation of the Organizing Committee and made a Presentation about the Fund Activity. **2.** The Seminar "Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Economic and Social Council" was organized by Fund in Moscow on August 26, 2000. Dr. Hanifa Mezoui. head of the NGO Department of the ECOSOC, chaired the Seminar. *3.* The work of the Fund's delegation on the Fourth Conference of the Consultative Group of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to implement CNS/ATM systems (February 6, 200 I , Montreal, Canada). **4.** The Fund's participation in organization and carrying out of the World Action "The Earth Day" and realization of international projects "Bell of the World" and "The Earth Flag" (March 20, 2001, Moscow, Russia) in accordance with the Conception "The Earth Day", approved by the UN. The projects are carried out with the assistance the UN Information Center in Moscow. **5.** The Fund together with the Non-governmental Organizations Sector of UN Department of ECOSOC carried out the Seminar "The role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the realization of new ways of international cooperation in educational, cultural and business spheres" (May 4-6, 2001, New York, USA).

3. Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies.

1. President of the Fund and President of the Council of ICAO signed Memorandum of collaboration between Fund and ICAO (Montreal, 06.02.2001) for the implementation of the CNS/ATM system. **2.** Fund joined the International Congress of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) of the United Nations, under the official invitation of the Congress Administration, March 26, 2001. **3.** Jointly with the Information Center of the UN in Moscow and with representatives of the most influential Russian public organizations, in March-June, 2002 members o f the Fund conducted a number of meetings where there were formulated and submitted to the government of Russia suggestions to be included into the cumulative report of Russia to the International Summit on the issues of sustainable development held in Johannesburg (26 August - 4 September, 2002). **4.** Members of the Fund participated in the meeting of NGO's representatives and Mrs. M. Fedoroff (Moscow, 19.04.2002) on the topic: "Strengthening of relationships between civil society and UN".

4. Other relevant activities. 1. In accordance with the UN recommendations about strengthening of NGO's role in the life of society the Fund in cooperation with International NGO's in consultative status with ECOSOC ("Federation for Peace and Conciliation", UN Association of Russia, Public Fund "Reforma" and others) established the NGO Council under the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. **2.** Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions. The Members of the Fund participated in the meeting (18.10.2001, Moscow, Russia) of NGO's in consultative status with ECOSOC for discussion of the Secretary General Mr. K. Anan initiative on the Global Pact. The resolution of discussion was sent to Mr. K. Anan. *3.* On 2-3 October, 2002 in Moscow within the framework of the World Space Week of the UN, the Fund jointly with the Tsyolkovsky Russian Space Academy, Russian Aviation-Space Agency, Space Federation of Russia and other partners conducted The First International Scientific Conference "Cosmonautics of the XXI Century: Problems, Solutions, Perspectives" dedicated to the 45th Anniversary of launch of the first artificial Earth satellite in the USSR; the 10"' Anniversary of Russian Aviation-Space Agency; the 145th Birthday Anni ersary of K. Tsyolkovsky and the 95th Birthday Anniversary of S. Korolev.

The activity of the Fund is stipulated by the development and implementation of its Programs and Projects that meet the goals and objectives of the Fund.

International Program "Protection of the Earth Environment".

1. Conference and Exhibition of mayors and heads of cities administrations of Russia "Social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainable city development - 99" (July 1999, Moscow). **2.** International Scientific Conference "Europe - Our Common Home: Ecological Aspects" (December 1999, Minsk, Belarus). It was conducted jointly with the Executive Committee of the Belarus and Russia Union. **3.** All-Russian Conference "Scientific Aspects of the ecological problems of Russia" (13- 16 June 2001, Moscow). Proceedings are published. **4.** The project "Moscow Ecodrom" is realized jointly with museum of Ecology, Zvolle, The Netherlands.

International Program "Harmonization of the World Air Navigation System".

1. From 3 to 5 July 1999 Fund was one of the organizers of the First passenger flight across the North Pole: Moscow-Krasnoyarsk-Toronto (Canada)-New-York (USA) and back. **2.** International Conference "Aviation and Astronautics - Stages of Development and Perspectives", dedicated to the 90th Birth Anniversary of G. Lozino-Lozinsky, the "Molniya" Association General Designer (December 25, 1999, Moscow). **3.** International Symposium and Exhibition "AVIA 2000". Air Navigation System of Russia-problems and ways of their solving (April 18-20, 2000, Moscow).

International Program "Stages of Space Exploration".

1. The 30'" Anniversary of the appearance on the Moon of the world's First automatic self-propelled machine "Lunokhod- 1 ". Within the project, a series of events dedicated to this memorable date was held in different cities of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (2000). **2.** The 35th Anniversary of the Space Center "Plesetzk". A series of events dedicated to the 35th Anniversary of the missile-carrier "Vostok" launch was held on March 16- 18, 200 I in Plesetzk. "Vostok" had brought out the space apparatus "Kosmos- 112" to the orbit, which commemorated the beginning of the First State Experimental Space Center "Plesetzk" operation. **3.** A number of events dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Tenth International space crew comprised of the pilot-in-command - V. Dzhanibekov, flight engineer - A. Ivanchenkov, astronaut-researcher, and the first French astronaut J.-L. Chretien (December 1-3, 2002) were jointly funded by the French Embassy and International Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Avaition Technological University (International Trustee Fund of MATI). **4.** In frame of the Program, the Fund jointly with the Embassy of the Czech Republic held ceremonial evenings, dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the flight of the international space crew V. Remek (Czech Republic) - A. Gubarev (Russia), were organized and carried out in Moscow on February 27, 2003 and in Brno (Czech Republic) on March 10, 2003. **5.** International scientific and practical Conference and Exhibition "Buran - a break towards high technologies", dedicated to the 15'" Anniversary of the successful flight of the multiple-use space shuttle "Buran" (November 19, 2003, Moscow), was held with participation the Russian Engineering Academy and Tsyolkovsky Space Academy. **6.** Fund held events, dedicated 25th Anniversary of the longest (140 days) space flight of the crew - A. Ivanchenkov and V. Kovalenok with participation of the Russian Engineering Academy and Tsyolkovsky Space Academy (November 19, 2003, Moscow).

International Program "Congresses, Symposia, Conferences, Exhibitions".

1. Annual US-Russian Investment Symposium "Financial and Direct Investment Opportunities in Russia" in Boston (USA): January 13-17, 1999; October 5-8, 2000; November 1-3, 2001; November, 4-6. 2002. The Symposium is organized jointly with Harvard University in the line of the Program of international cooperation supported by the Governments of the United States of America and the Russian Federation. **2.** Annual International Conference "Opportunities in High Technology" in

Boston (USA) was held on May 18-20, 2000; on 11-13 April 2001; on April 2002; on April 2003 in cooperation with New England US-Russia Chamber of Commerce. Goals and objectives of Conferences were related to the analysis of American-Russian cooperation in the sphere of medicine, telecommunications, software, discussions on legal aspects of intellectual property protection, certification and other legal issues. **3.** Worldwide Electro-Technical Congress "WETC-99" (July 1999, Moscow, Russia) was conducted jointly with the Russian Academy of Sciences, the International Academy of Electro-Technical Sciences in collaboration with UNESCO, UNIDO. **4.** International Aerospace Congresses is held every three years in Moscow, Russia in consultation with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in cooperation with: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); European Space Agency (ESA); American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA); Arianespace (France); Chinese National Space Administration (CNSA); Lockheed Martin Corporation; Israel Space Agency (ISA); Japanese National Space Developing Agency (NASDA). The Third Congress, IAC'2000 (August 23-24, 2000) was dedicated to the 35th Anniversary of the First Man Open Space Walk and to the 25th Anniversary of the docking of "SOYUZ" (Russia) and "APOLLO" (USA); The Fourth Congress IAC'03, dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the World Aviation was held from August 18 to 23, 2003 in close connection with the International Aviation and Space Salon - 2003. Up to 1000 scientists, designers, astronauts from many countries participated in each Congress. Declarations and Proceedings of Congresses are distributed all over the World. **5.** International Exhibition and Seminar "Education-Technology-Market" (October 6-15, 1999, Moscow) was held in cooperation with the National Commission of Assistance in Economic Relations with the Countries of Latin America, the Scientific Council of the Executive Committee of the Belarus and Russia Union. **6.** All-Russian Conference "Education in Russia on the Boundary of the Centuries" (April 24-28, 2001, Moscow) was held jointly with Russian Engineering academy, the Council of Rectors of Higher Educational Institutions of Moscow and Moscow Region. The main goal of the Conference was to determine the new trends in educational technologies in the national system of secondary and higher education. 7. Annual International Russian Forum "Political Support to US-Russian Collaboration" (May 6-9, 2001, New York and Washington, USA; April 28-30, 2002, Washington D.C., USA; April 28-30, 2003, Washington D.C., USA) were attended by statesmen, representatives of industrial, financial and business circles of Russia and the USA. A Memorandum approved at the closing plenary session of the Forum was forwarded to the Presidents of the Russia and the USA. The United States Senate suggested the motto for the Forum "New Time. New Beginning". There were discussed the issues of Russian-US cooperation in a number of fields including "Aviation and Astronautics".

International Program "Strengthening and extension of international collaboration".

1. In August 2002, by initiative of the Fund and a number of Chinese firms, there was established Technopark in Beijing. The main goal of the Technopark is selection, development and introduction of Russian high technologies. **2.** On 15-18 September, 2002 the Fund organized a trip to Czech Republic for a delegation of Russian machine-building enterprises (Khrunichev Space Center, Machine-Building Plant "Salute", Krasnoyarsk Central Design Bureau "Geophysics", Federal Service "Spetsstroy" of the RF, Krasnoyarsk Mining and Chemical Complex, Reshetnev Scientific-Production Association of Applied Mechanics and others). The delegation participated in the International machine-building Exhibition in Brno.

International Program "World Culture - Basis for Human Progress".

1. The project "Krasnoyarskaya Pushkiniana" was dedicated to the 200th Birth Anniversary of A. Pushkin and was implemented under the patronage of A. Lebed, the Governor of Krasnoyarsk Region. The project assumed a number of charity actions in the Krasnoyarsk Region, including participation in

the reconstruction of the Pushkin Drama Theater; organization of participation in the events of the Head of the Representative Office of American Congress Library in Moscow, who presented the Central Library of Krasnoyarsk with microfilins of the unique library heritage of their compatriot-patron of art and collector G. Yudin; edition of Jubilee Collected Works of A. Pushkin in 5 volumes and the Almanac "The Krasnoyarsk Continent". **2.** "International Vocal School" - International Annual Charity Project in Moscow, Russia (May 12-14,2000; April 6-13,2001; May 19-26, 2002; May 18-25,2003). Young opera singers, coaches for singers and vocal coaches from the Metropolitan Opera (New York, USA), the Houston Grand Opera (USA), Opera Theaters and Musical Institutions from Krasnoyarsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Vilnius (Lithuania) and other cities took part. Leading vocal coaches from La Skala (Milan, Italy), the Chicago Lyric Opera (USA), the Munich Opera (Germany), the San Francisco Opera Theater (USA) and others visited the public classes and master-classes.